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THE LEGISLATION OF THE EMPIRE, 1898-1907. Edited by C. E. A. BEDWELL. London: BUTTERWORTH & Co. 1909. 4 vols. Vol. I, pp. xxxv, 545; Vol. II, pp. x, 482; Vol. III, pp. x, 528; Vol. IV, pp. 231.

This decennial index covering the statutes and ordinances, about twenty-five thousand in number, passed by some eighty legislative bodies in the British Empire during the decade ending in 1907, is the means adopted by the Society of Comparative Legislation, in connection with its annual summaries for carrying out the comparative method. These volumes by themselves, or better still, in connection with the *Annuaire* of the *Société de Legislation Comparée* and the digest of the laws of the various states compiled by the New York State Library, reveal distinctly the great lines of modern legislation. Here is material from which some later day Montesquieu may construct a new "*Esprit des Lois*." But it has also a more practical usefulness for every citizen and legislator. A study of it will make plain the vast difference between the spirit of the immediate past and that of the immediate present and will emphasize properly that this is an era of construction, a knowledge of the details of which is of vital importance to anyone who would take part therein. In addition to emphasizing this difference and this necessity, the work makes readily accessible the information as to the details, in the shape of actual enactments. Such material is invaluable in the drafting of satisfactory statutes in matters not absolutely untried.

One need only glance at the index to discover that the principal topics are of almost universal interest—immigration, the administration of justice, codification of law, public health in all its various phases, and labor legislation, particularly that dealing with the prevention and settlement of trade disputes. No one of these problems is peculiar to the British Empire and a knowledge of the various solutions that are there being attempted cannot but be of the very greatest value to the draftsman of statutes intended to meet similar situations elsewhere. It would seem particularly useful in the United States where the uninitiated are so frequently intrusted with these weighty problems without previous opportunity for self-instruction. The work which the Society of Comparative Legislation is performing as a private enterprise is, indeed, as Lord Rosebury remarks in the preface, a much more useful one than many others for which the State provides from its own coffers.

E. C. B.

BOOKS RECEIVED:

THE FEDERAL CORPORATION TAX LAW OF 1909. By ARTHUR W. MACHEN, JR. Boston: LITTLE, BROWN & Co. 1910. pp. xxv, 289.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY. By THEOPHILUS J. MOLL. Cincinnati: THE W. H. ANDERSON Co. 1910. pp. lvi, 378.

RUMSEY ON CORPORATIONS. By JUDSON S. RUMSEY. Albany: BANKS & Co. 1909. pp. 810.

DAY IN COURT. By FRANCIS L. WELLMAN. New York: THE MACMILLAN Co. 1910. pp. 257.